Reviewer's report

Title: Standard abdominal wound edge protection with surgical dressings vs. coverage with a sterile circular polyethylene drape for prevention of surgical site infections. A patient and observer-blinded randomized controlled trial - BaFO

Version: 4 Date: 5 December 2011

Reviewer: Charlie Goldsmith

Reviewer's report:

For the most part the issues raised in the first review have been handled well. However, on rereading the revised protocol some of the issues raised before have not been handled in the entire text. These are outlined below. The pages have been numbered from 1 to 31.

1. P(age) 3, p(aragraph) 1, l(ine)s 7, 8 and 9. The short forms [RKI], [NRZ] and [KISS] have not been included on P 17 and should be.
3. P 9, p 1, l 1. Replace [be] by [by].
4. P 10, p 1, l 9. Replace [incidence] by [rate]. Also P 11, p 1, l 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8; 5 times.
5. P 10, p 1, l 21. What does the subscript [[TS1]] represent? It is not defined on P 17.
6. P 10, p 1, l 22. Replace [less] by [fewer]. Use fewer for counts and less for amounts.
7. P 10, p 2, l 7. Provide a R(eference) for the imputation strategies you plan to use.
9. P 15, p 1, l 8. Rewrite as […] surgery (35); a result …].
11. P 15, p 2, l 16. Rewrite as […] trial should help to improve surgical treatment of patients.]
12. P 17. Many short forms are missing: ANCOVA, KISS, KKS, NNIS, NRZ, RKI were detected.
13. P 18, p 1, l 4. Rewrite as [90 x 90 cm]. Insert spaces.
14. P 24 ff. Many of the journal titles still contain [.] after the short forms. Delete them for R 1, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 24, 28, 30, 36, 38 (which was mentioned in the last review and in the reply was claimed to be made), 45, 48 & 50.
15. P 24, R 5, l 3. Insert [(German)] at the end of the line if that is the appropriate language.
16. P 25, R 21, L 4. Delete one [:].